

# City To Be 95 Years Old Friday; Miss Rashleigh Writes Interesting History Starting In The News Today

Friday of this week, March 15, will mark the 95th anniversary of the incorporation of Carbondale as a city. Although the community had a population of less than 5,000 at the time, the General Assembly of the state took cognizance of the special problems of government facing it and enacted legislation granting a municipal charter. Governor William Johnson signed the city charter March 15, 1851.

Miss Alice Voyle Rashleigh, who retired in June of 1940 as principal of the John Marshall School after 52 years of teaching service, has prepared for The News a history of the community which she loves so well, has served so well, and of which she has been so much a part throughout her long and useful life. The information upon which it is based was presented originally by Miss Rashleigh before the Delphic Study club in January. Her manuscript will be presented in serial form in The News at this appropriate time.

Miss Rashleigh is the granddaughter of the late Thomas Voyle, an early mayor of the city and one of the founders of the Columbia Hose Company, which will be 90 years old on Nov. 6. Her notation on the cover sheet of the manuscript is:

"March 15th—95th Anniversary of Carbondale as a City.

Written by Alice Voyle Rashleigh for People Who Know Too Little About Their Home Town."

The first installment of Miss Rashleigh's narrative follows:

The city of Carbondale will be 95 years old March 15th—and "36 River Street" will be 96 years old.

In January, the Delphic Club gave me the opportunity to talk on my second favorite subject — "Carbondale". The first one is "The Flag of the United States of America".

Mother having passed on, I had to rely on my own notes and a faulty memory. Yet one event—THE FINDING OF COAL—stands out clearly. Hence the history of Carbondale and that of the Anthracite industry and the formation of the Delaware and Hudson Canal company go hand in hand.

William Wurts of Philadelphia came into this section about 1812 and observed the "black stone." He secured a large tract of land at \$2 to \$5 an acre. Later, his brother Maurice arrived and together they prepared to begin mining. In 1824, they erected a log house, known as "Old Log Tavern", southwest of my home, near the present D. & H. station. This